

even up there, man? Come on home.” [Laughter] “What are you doing that for?” My answer is, I love my country. Public service is noble and necessary. I’m glad I ran for President. And I’ll try to do my part to elevate the tone and hold people—and treat people with respect whether they agree with me or not.

I’ve got to go back to Washington. God bless. Thanks for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:37 a.m. at the Arie Crown Theater at Lakeside Center—McCormick Place. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chi-

cago, IL; Edward R. Tinsley III, chairman of the board of directors, National Restaurant Association, and his wife, Meredith; Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, former President Saddam Hussein, President Jalal Talabani, and Speaker of the Council of Representatives Mahmoud al-Mashhadani of Iraq; senior Al Qaida associate Abu Musab Al Zarqawi; Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Canada; and Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan. Participants referred to President Hugo Chavez Frias of Venezuela; Ted Koppel, former anchor, ABC News; and former Vice President Al Gore.

## Statement on the Death of Lee Jong-wook *May 22, 2006*

Laura and I were saddened to learn of the death of Dr. Lee Jong-wook. As the world’s top health official, Dr. Lee worked tirelessly to improve the health of millions of people, from combating tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS to his aggressive efforts to eradicate polio. He provided tremendous leadership to the international community as it

confronted the challenges of the 21st century, including the threat of an influenza pandemic. Dr. Lee’s outreach to world leaders and entities increased awareness of potentially devastating public health dangers. We send our deepest condolences to his family.

## The President’s News Conference With Prime Minister Ehud Olmert of Israel *May 23, 2006*

*President Bush.* Thank you. Mr. Prime Minister, welcome. I’m particularly pleased to welcome Mrs. Olmert to the White House as well. Thanks for coming.

The Prime Minister and I have known each other since 1998, when he was the mayor of Jerusalem and I was the Governor of Texas. And I remember you greeting me in your office there, and you probably thought you were going to be the Prime

Minister—I wasn’t sure if I was going to be the President. [Laughter]

We’ve just had a really productive meeting. We reaffirmed the deep and abiding ties between Israel and the United States. And those ties include our commitment to democracy and our strong belief that everybody has the right to worship freely. The ties include growing trade and economic relationships. The ties include important educational exchange programs that allow